

--3. (Amended) Electronic money according to claim 1, wherein changing of said security is performed at every predetermined period.

--4. (Amended) Electronic money according to claim 1, wherein changing of said security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source and said administrator.

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--5. (Amended) Electronic money according to claim 1, wherein after completion of changing said security, the security before said changing is invalidated after a lapse of a predetermined time period.

--6. (Amended) An electronic use right that enables software so that reproduction of contents can be performed, wherein

a security of said electronic use right is changeable by one of an issuing source and an administrator.

--7. (Amended) The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein said security is one of a key for encryption, a key length of said key, an error detection and/or correction code,

and a valid term.

--8. (Amended) The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein changing of said security is performed at every predetermined time period.

--9. (Amended) The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein changing of said security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source and said administrator.

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--10. (Amended) The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein after completion of changing said security, the security before said changing is invalidated after elapse of a predetermined time period.

--11. (Amended) The electronic use right according to claim 6, wherein said software is one of audio data, video data, still image data, character data, computer graphics data, game software, and a computer program.

--12. (Amended) A charging system in which when software that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is distributed and a user decodes the distributed software, a charging process is

performed through electronic money that the user possesses, wherein

a security for the electronic money is changeable by one of an issuing source and an administrator.

--13. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein said security is one of a key for encryption, a key length of said key, an error detection and/or correction code, and a valid term.

--14. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein changing of said security is performed at every predetermined time period.

--15. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein changing of said security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source or said administrator.

--16. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein after completion of changing said security, the security before said change is invalidated after elapse of a predetermined time period.

--17. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein one of said issuing source and said administrator performs one of buying one of the electronic money and an electronic use right that the user possesses and exchanging one of the electronic money and the electronic use right for one of valid electronic money and a valid electronic use right.

--18. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein a request for one of the electronic money and an electronic use right is generated at a timing when a result of the decoding by the user reaches a range permitted by one of the electronic money and the electronic use right.

--19. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 12, wherein said software is one of audio data, video data, still image data, character data, computer graphics data, game software, and a computer program.

--20. (Amended) A charging system in which when software that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is distributed and a user decodes the distributed software, a charging process is performed through an electronic use right that the user possesses, wherein

a security for the electronic use right is changeable by

one of an issuing source or an administrator.

--21. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 20, wherein said security is one of a key for encryption, a key length of said key, an error detection and/or correction code, and a valid term.

--22. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 20, wherein changing of said security is performed at every predetermined time period.

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--23. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 20, wherein changing of said security is performed in accordance with a necessity of one of said issuing source and said administrator.

--24. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 20, wherein after completion of changing said security, the security before said change is invalidated after elapse of a predetermined time period.

--25. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 20, wherein one of said issuing source and said administrator performs one of buying one of electronic money and the

electronic use right that the user possesses and exchanging one of the electronic money and the electronic use right for one of valid electronic money and a valid electronic use right.

--26. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 20, wherein one of a request for electronic money and the electronic use right is generated at a timing when a result of decoding by one of the user reaches a range permitted by the electronic money and the electronic use right.

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--27. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 20, wherein said software is one of audio data, video data, still image data, character data, computer graphics data, gamma software, and a computer program.

--28. (Amended) A charging system that operates by using one of electronic money and an electronic use right, wherein

a security for one of the electronic money and the electronic use right is checked, and

when a result of said security check indicates a no go (NG), at least one of a stop of the operation of the system and a notification showing that the result of said security check indicates NG is performed.

--29. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said security check is a check of one of a result of a decoding of an encryption, a result of an error detection and/or correction, and a valid term.

--30. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said security check is performed by checking whether one of remaining electronic money and the electronic use right is in a legal state after completion of a decoding operation.

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--31. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said notification is made to one of an issuing source and an administrator of one of the electronic money and the electronic use right.

--32. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 28, wherein said notification is made to a user.

--33. (Amended) A charging system in which when software that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is distributed and a user decodes said distributed software, a charging process is performed through one of electronic money and an electronic use right that the user possesses, wherein

a security for one of the electronic money and the

electronic use right is checked, and

when a result of said security check indicates a no go (NG), at least one of a stop of the operation of the system and a notification showing that the result of said security check indicates NG is performed.

--34. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said security check is a check of one of a result of a decoding of an encryption, a result of an error detection and/or correction and a valid term.

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--35. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said security check is performed by checking whether one of remaining electronic money and the electronic use right is in a legal state after completion of the decoding.

--36. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said notification is made to one of an issuing source and an administrator of one of the electronic money and the electronic use right.

--37. (Amended) The charging system according to claim 33, wherein said notification is made to the user.

--38. (Amended) An information processing apparatus in which when distributed software that was compression encoded and/or encrypted is decoded, a charging process is performed through one of electronic money and an electronic use right, wherein

a security for one of the electronic money and the electronic use right is checked, and

when a result of said security check indicates a no go (NG), at least one of a stop of decoding the software and a notification showing that the result of said security check indicates NG is performed.

--39. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said security check is one of a check of a result of a decoding of an encryption, a result of an error detection and/or correction, and a valid term.

--40. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said security check is performed by checking one of the remaining electronic money and the electronic use right is in a legal state after completion of the decoding.

--41. (Amended) The information processing apparatus

according to claim 38, wherein said notification is made to one of an issuing source and an administrator of one of the electronic money and the electronic use right.

--42. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said notification is made to a user.

--43. (Amended) A reproducing method of contents data, comprising the steps of:

checking a security for an electronic use right when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is reproduced;

stopping reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security; and

performing a reproducing process of said contents data and consuming said electronic use right when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security.

--44. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security, whether said electronic use right of an amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains is

discriminated, and when said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data does not remain, the reproducing process of said contents data is not executed.

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--45. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when it is determined that said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains, the reproducing process of said contents data is executed and said electronic use right is consumed.

--46. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 45, wherein the consumption of said electronic use right is performed based on a charge condition in subordinate data associated with said contents data.

--47. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein said electronic use right includes data regarding a header and at least valid start year/month/day, data indicative of a kind of encryption, data regarding the electronic use right, and an error correction code.

--48. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when it is determined that said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security, a management organization for managing said electronic use right is notified of such a fact.

--49. (Amended) A reproducing method of contents data, comprising the steps of:

checking a security for an electronic use right that is used in a charging process that is executed when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is reproduced;

stopping reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security; and

performing reproducing process of said contents data and the charging process based on said electronic use right when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security.

--50. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security, whether said electronic use right of an amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains is

discriminated, and when said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data does not remain, the reproducing process of said contents data is not executed.

--51. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein when it is determined that said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains, the reproducing process of said contents data is executed and the charging process is executed based on said electronic use right.

--52. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein the charging process based on said electronic use right is executed based on a charge condition in subordinate data associated with said contents data.

--53. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein said electronic use right includes data regarding a header and at least valid start year/month/day, data indicative of a kind of encryption, data regarding the electronic use right, and an error correction code.

--54. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein when it is determined as a result of said step of checking a security that said electronic use right is invalid, a management organization for managing said electronic use right is notified of such a fact.

--55. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, a previous electronic use right is replaced with a new electronic use right.

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--56. (Amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, data regarding a reproduction history of the contents data reproduced when said electronic use right is restored is transmitted to a management organization for managing said electronic use right.

--57. (Amended) A reproduction control method comprising the steps of:

storing an electronic use right purchased from a management organization into a memory in a player;

checking a security for said electronic use right that is

used in a charging process which is executed when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is reproduced by the player;

stopping reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a security; and

performing a reproducing process of said contents data and executing the charging process based on said electronic use right when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a security.

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--58. (Amended) The reproduction control method according to claim 57, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, a previous electronic use right is replaced with a new electronic use right.

--59. (Amended) The reproduction control method according to claim 57, wherein when said electronic use right is restored, data regarding a reproduction history of the reproduced contents data is transmitted to said management organization for managing said electronic use right.

--60. (Amended) The reproduction control method according to claim 59, wherein when said reproduction history exceeds a predetermined permission amount, said management organization

inhibits the reproduction of the contents data by said player.

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--61. (Amended) The reproduction control method according to claim 60, wherein said management organization further collects the electronic use rights stored in a memory of said player.
